

K-594

1905-1906

Chapel of the Holy Cross of North Kent Parish

Millington

Private

The Chapel of the Holy Cross is located on the east side of Sassafras Street, almost across from Back Street, in the town of Millington. Its entry gable end faces east, toward the street. At the approach gable end there is a vestibule-tower with a steep gable-roofed canopy over the entry doors. The nave roof, with an especially steep gable roof, intersects with cross gables near its rear corners, resulting in a convention in church architecture, the cruciform plan. Only one side of the cruciform is open to the nave on the interior, however, the south side, which is used for choir seating. The north gable area is an enclosed sacristy, with its own entrance. Centered at the rear is a lower gable-roofed chancel projection, which is not indicative of the interior division of space; the chancel area is deeper on the interior than the projection indicates it is. The exterior walls are covered with fish-scale wood shingles with both vertical and horizontal "sticks" customary with the style. Not including the cross-gable area, the main section is three bays deep. The Chapel of the Holy Cross in Millington is one of the handsomest churches in Kent County and the only one built in the Stick Style. The plan was offered to North Kent Parish by the architect of the Diocese of Delaware, W. D. Brinckle, after the previous Millington chapel, located across Sassafras Street was consumed in the great Millington fire of 1904. It was dedicated exactly two years after the fire. It is not known if elsewhere on the Delmarva Peninsula there might be another church built from this plan, whether he was offering this congregation an already-used plan. The years 1905-06 are rather late for Stick Style buildings. The plan is a carefully thought-out one, unpretentious and with good proportions and detail, and admirably suited to a rural, small town area.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Chapel of the Holy Cross of North Kent Parish

and/or common

2. Location

street & number West side Sassafras Street at Back Street
N. Sassafras St. not for publication

city, town Millington vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Vestry of North Kent Parish

street & number telephone no.: 928-3081

city, town Massey state and zip code Maryland 21650

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber JTD 10

street & number Cross Street folio 17

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-594

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☒ good "int." ☐ ruins
☒ fair "ext." ☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered
slightly

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Chapel of the Holy Cross is located on the east side of Sassafras Street, almost across from Back Street, in the town of Millington. Its entry gable end faces east, toward the street. The frame, one-storey chapel was built during 1905 and 1906 in the Stick Style, from a plan supplied by W.D. Brinckle, the architect of the Diocese of Delaware. At the approach gable end there is a vestibule-tower with a steep gable-roofed canopy over the entry doors. The nave roof, with an especially steep gable roof, intersects with cross gables near its rear corners, resulting in a convention in church architecture, the cruciform plan. Only one side of the cruciform is open to the nave on the interior, however, the south side, which is used for choir seating. The north gable area is used for an enclosed sacristy, with its own entrance. Centered at the rear is a lower gable-roofed chancel projection, which is not indicative of the interior division of space; the chancel area is deeper on the interior than the projection indicates it is. The exterior walls are covered with fish-scale wood shingles with both vertical and horizontal "sticks" customary with the style. Not including the cross-gable area, the main section is three bays deep.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-594

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1905-1906 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The chapel of the Holy Cross in Millington is one of the handsomest churches in Kent County and the only one built in the Stick Style. The plan was offered to North Kent Parish by the architect of the Diocese of Delaware, W.D. Brinckle, after the previous Millington chapel, located across Sassafras Street was consumed in the great Millington fire of 1904. It was dedicated exactly two years after the fire. It is not known if elsewhere on the Delmarva Peninsula there might be another church built from this plan, whether he was offering this congregation an already-used plan. The years 1905-06 are rather late for Stick Style buildings. The plan is a carefully thought-out one, unpretentious and with good proportions and detail, and admirably suited to a rural, small town area. The interior is in excellent condition, but the exterior is in need of maintenance and repair. At least one of the tower corner posts appears to be rotted. However, the parish is small in numbers and has many buildings to maintain: the parish church in Massey, this chapel, a rectory, and a parish hall.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-594

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant

County Commissioners of Kent County

organization Historical Society of Kent County

date November 13, 1985

Courthouse

778-4600

street & number Cross Street

telephone 778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Though the building was built all at once, it consists of four sections: the main, large nave, the small, rectangular vestibule-tower, two gable-roofed projections near the rear of the main section whose roofs are considerably lower than the nave's, and a short, narrower chancel projection whose gable roof is also lower than the nave's.

There are two chimneys, evidently both original. One short one is within the north gable extension, within the sacristy at the center of the gable end, between the windows. The other rises up within the tower, in the northwest corner, exiting through the tower's gable roof. This appears to be, if not original, an early addition, for an old postcard that pre-dates 1926 shows it present.

The main walls are wood shingled, in a fish-scale pattern. They are painted white. The corner boards and horizontal bands and vertical boards that create the Stick Style divisions of space are painted dark brown. They do not serve any structural purpose, nor are they indicative of the true structure of the building. The window trim is also dark brown. Between the shingling and the foundation there is a broad, canted skirt that forms a dark, heavy band at this change in materials and defines the lower edge of the main wall. It is almost eight inches deep and is slanted outward at its lower edge about 35 to 40 degrees. The projection from the wall at its lower edge is about 5 inches. The lower edge is blocked from behind.

Windows are of several types: casement, double-hung, and fixed. The side windows of the nave are paired. Each casement window of the pair fits between rafters. The church seems to have been modularly planned. The 6" wide band that spans the nave section horizontally passes beneath the window sills, as an apron. There are now unfortunate mill-finish aluminum storm windows-screens in place that are double-hung and have no relationship to the casement windows of the original building. However, it is apparent that the leaded glass windows with their colored glass were deteriorating and that something had to be done to keep them from further deterioration. A second glazing, perhaps acrylic, in three sections has been placed on the exterior of the large, nearly triangular chancel window.

The roofs are covered with regular, rectangular slate shingles. The foundation is built of brick that is painted red; the bricks are quite small. The church seems to be built over a crawl space that is poorly ventilated. There appears to be a moisture problem.

On the interior the ceiling is gable, with rafters exposed and periodically trussed, with king post trusses. The deck is of dark-stained beaded board. Wainscoting of oak paneling, to match the church's original trim, has been applied fairly recently. The upper walls are painted plaster.

Even before the Episcopalians of the uppermost part of Kent County separated from Shrewsbury Parish in 1851, to form North Kent Parish, there had been services conducted periodically in Millington, at the building of the Millington Academy. Members of North Kent Parish were not numerous in the middle and late nineteenth century, and some thought it imprudent to have more than one church building for the parish. However, Millington-area residents continued to work for a chapel in Millington. By 1875 services were again begun in the Millington Academy building, and the women of the church in particular pressed for a fundraising campaign. They raised the first \$56 and purchased a church lot on the east side of Sassafras Street south of Back Street in 1876. By 1877 a frame church was in progress, which evidently was built over a period of a number of years. It was consecrated in 1883 by the Bishop of Easton.

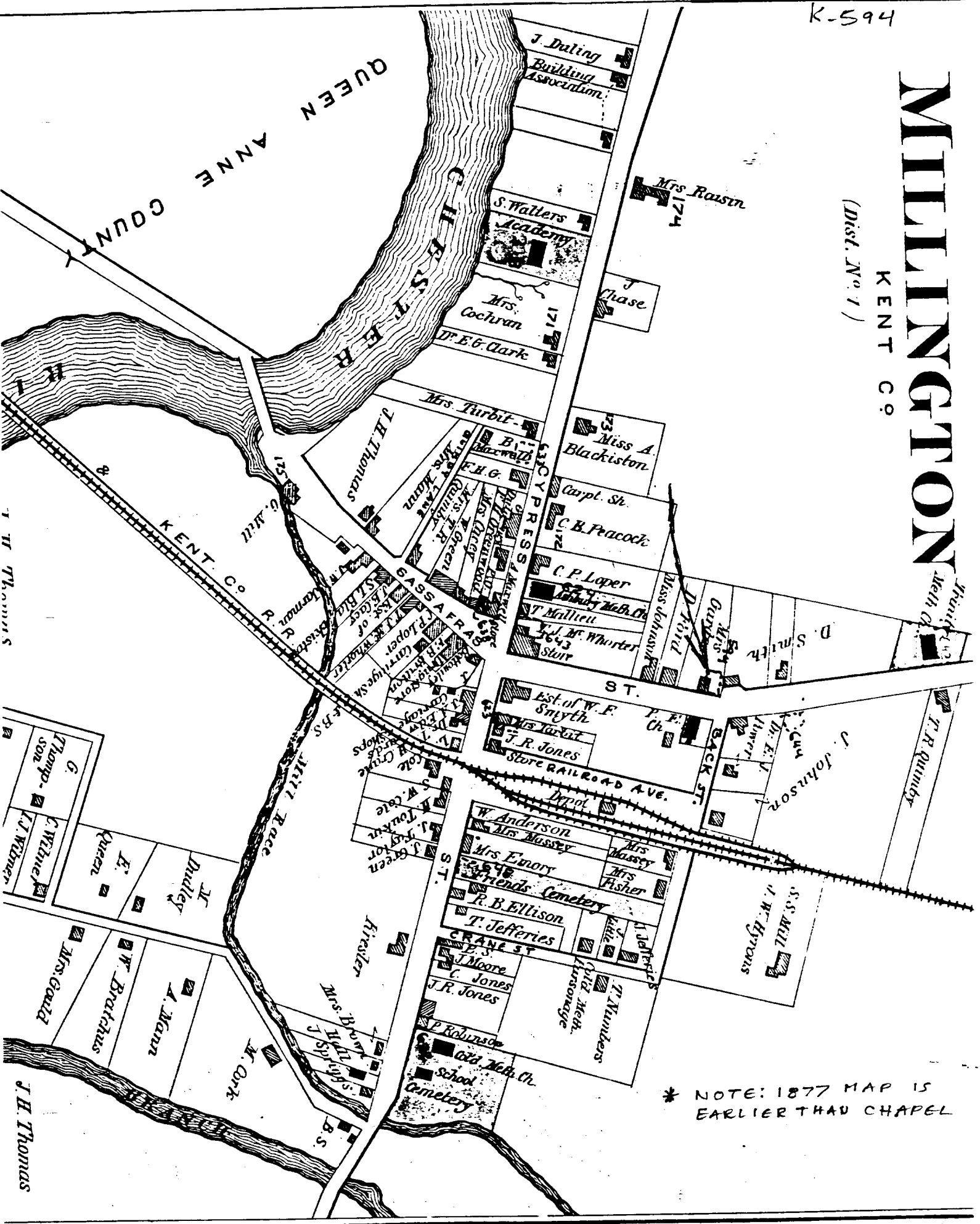
However, in July 1904 a great fire consumed at least four acres of Millington--every store, both hotels, many houses, and the Protestant Episcopal Chapel. Soon thereafter the vestry of the parish determined not only to build a new building but to purchase a larger lot for it. They purchased a lot almost directly across the street from the first church site. With \$1,000 in insurance money paid after the destruction of the first chapel, work was begun on the second with the cornerstone laying in September 1905. The plan is attributed to W. D. Brinckle, the architect of the Diocese of Delaware, who is said to have contributed the plan. North Kent Parish is not part of that diocese, but very likely after he heard of their plight, he made his donation. It is not now known whether this is the only church built in Delaware or Maryland from this plan or whether the donation might have been of a plan already used one or more times elsewhere. On July 12, 1906, two years exactly after the fire, the new chapel was consecrated.

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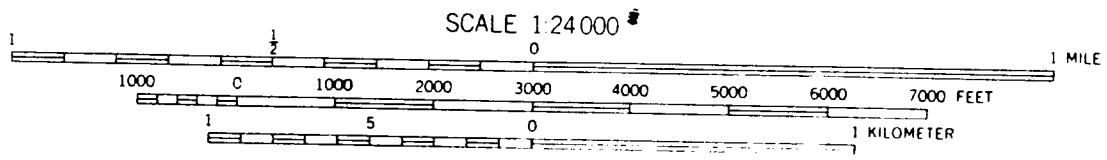
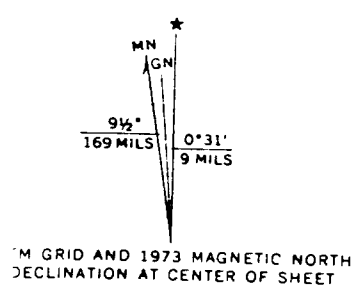
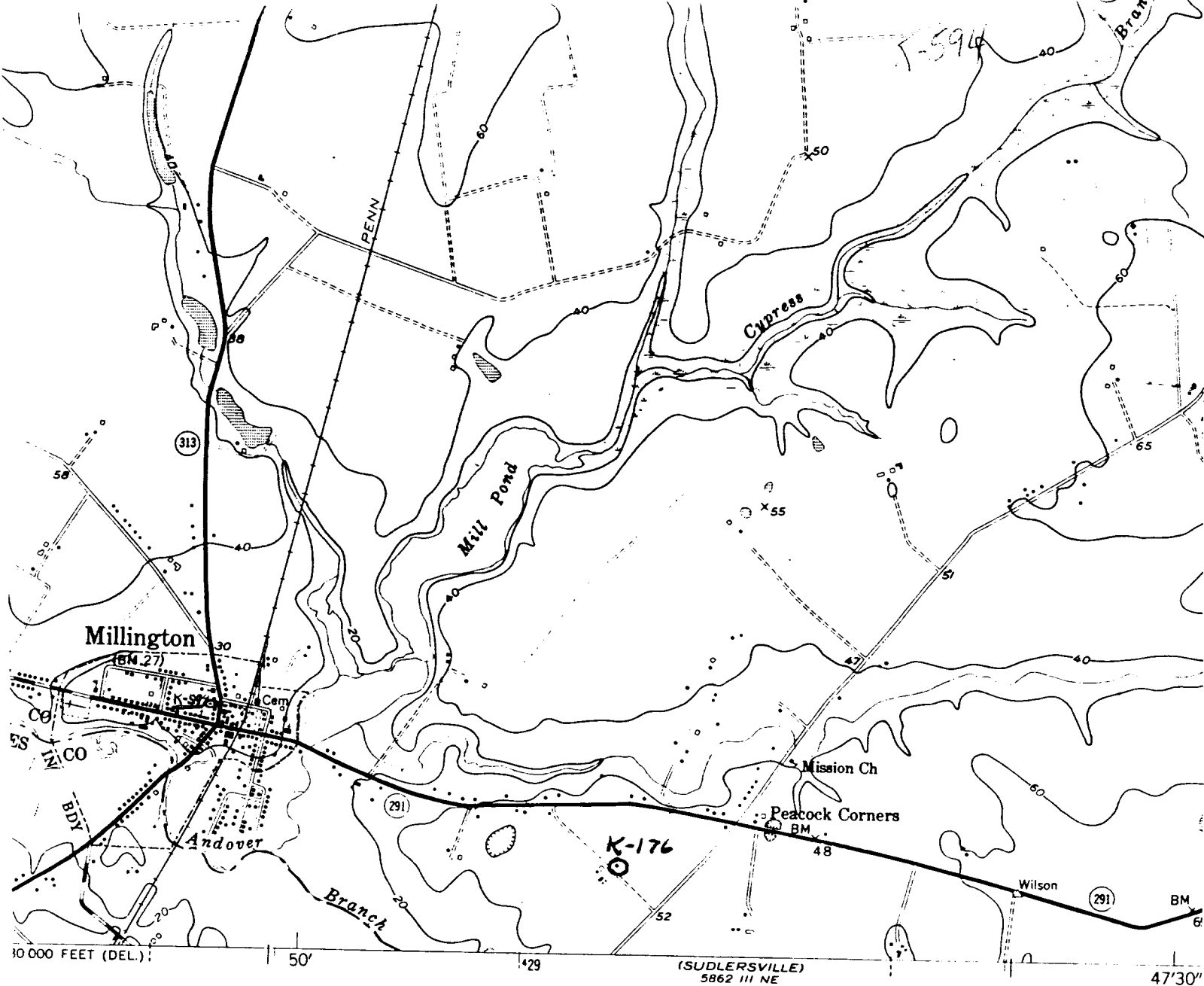
MILLINGTON

KENT CO.

(Dist. No. 1)



* NOTE: 1877 MAP IS EARLIER THAN CHAPEL



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MILLINGTON QUADRANGLE



K-594

Chapel of the Holy Cross

Sassafras street, Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 11/19/85

View to southeast

K594 - 34



K-594

Chapel of the Holy Cross
Sassafras Street, Millington

M. Q. Fallaw - 11/19/85

View to west

K-594 - 19A